Launching of Commercial Space Satellite

1582. SHRI BALAWANT *alias* BAL ARTE:
SHRISU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has started commercial space satellite launching services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, thie reasons therefor;

(d) the nuniber of countries approached so far; and

(e) the other services being provided presently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A contract for launch of a European satellite by Indian Polar Satellite Lau nch Vehicle (PSLV) has been signed in 2004.

(d) Potential customers from five countries have so far made enquiries regarding launch services for commercial space satellites.

(e) Other services which are being provided presently include global marketing of data from Indian Remote Sensing Satellites, the lease of communication transponders from INSAT satellites, provision of mission support services and supply of satellite and ground systems or subsystems.

India's Lunar Missions

1583. SHRIMATI N.R DURGA. Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that British scientists are going to associate India in designing payload for India's lunar mission *i.e.,* Chandrayaan; and

(b) if so, the details of assistance that India i$ going to get from British in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The Chandrayaan Mission is